Claims

1.   In an electronic device, a method, comprising the steps of:

        providing a base object class that includes at least one method for
converting between Java objects and XML data objects;

        providing a selected object class that is a sub-class of the base object
class; and

        for a given instance of the selected object class, invoking the method to
perform a conversion on the given instance.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the selected object class is a Java object class.

3.   The method of claim 1, wherein the selected object class is an XML data object
class.

4.   The method of claim 1, wherein the method for converting is invoked to convert
a Java object into at least one XML data object.

5.   The method of claim 1, wherein the method for converting is invoked to convert
an XML data object into Java.

6.   The method of claim 1, wherein the method for converting is invoked to convert
an entire XML document into Java.

7.   The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic device is a computer system.

8.   The method of claim 1, wherein the base object class includes both a method for
converting from Java to XML and a method for converting from XML to Java.

9.   A medium for use in an electronic device, said medium holding instructions for
performing a method, comprising the steps of:

        providing a base object class that includes at least one method for
converting between Java objects and XML data objects;

        providing a selected object class that is a sub-class of the base object
class; and

        for a given instance of the selected object class, invoking the method to
perform a conversion on the given instance.

10.   The medium of claim 9, wherein the selected object class is a Java object class.

11.   The medium of claim 9, wherein the selected object class is an XML data object class.

12.   The medium of claim 9, wherein the method for converting is invoked to convert a Java object into at least one XML data object.

13.   The medium of claim 9, wherein the method for converting is invoked to convert an XML data object into Java.

14.   The medium of claim 9, wherein the method for converting is invoked to convert an entire XML document into Java.

15.   The medium of claim 9, wherein the base object class includes both a method for converting from Java to XML and a method for converting from XML to Java.

16.   In an electronic device, a method, comprising the steps of:
            providing a base object class that includes at least one method for converting between Java objects and XML data objects;
            defining a first object class as a sub-class of the base object class; and
            defining a second object class as a sub-class of the base object class.

17.   The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of, for an instance of the first object class, invoking the method for converting to perform conversion of the instance of the first object class.

18.   The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of, for an instance of the second object class, invoking the method for converting to perform conversion of the instance of the second object class.

19.   The method of claim 16, wherein the method for converting converts a Java object into XML.

20.   he method of claim 16, wherein the method for converting converts an XML document into Java.